

HAMILTON COUNTY
BOARD OF MENTAL RETARDATION & DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, March 14, 2006

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Shelley Goering, President
Mr. Gregory Webb, Vice President
Mr. Robert Hall
Mr. Martin Miller

ABSENT: Mrs. Lynn K. Sundermann, Secretary
Mr. Scott Harsh

Mrs. Goering called the March 14, 2006 meeting to order at 5:42 p.m.

Mr. Hall moved approval of the minutes of the February 14, 2006 Board Meeting as mailed. Mr. Miller seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mrs. Goering thanks all involved for the successful Awards Banquet that was held on March 6, and also congratulated and thanked everyone for the very successful CARF Accreditation Survey.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Reported by Ms. Phipps

Ms. Phipps updated the Board on the following issues.

The CARF Accreditation was very successful, with 7 exemplary classifications (which denote a national model of quality), many noted strengths, and only 2 recommendations for improvement. Ms. Phipps expressed her thanks to all staff for their hard work and dedication toward making the services provided in Hamilton County some of the best in the country.

Ms. Phipps asked Mr. Landers, Director of Business Services, to update the Board on the progress toward purchasing the building at 1520 Madison Road. Mr. Landers stated that the Board of County Commissioners approved the contract for us to purchase the building for \$2.5 million. Mr. Landers reminded the Board that no tax levy funds will be used for the purchase or renovation of this building. Mr. Landers stated that we have begun the 90-day due diligence period, during which time a Phase I Environmental study and title search will be completed. Closing on the building is scheduled to occur in 90 days, or less.

It is time, once again, for the teachers in all of our schools to complete the Alternate Assessments for every student enrolled. These assessments replace the standardized test administered in all other school districts, and are very detailed and time consuming to complete. An example of one assessment was presented to the Board for review.

The gentleman who is accused of strangling his roommate at Fairfield Center, was found incompetent to stand trial. He is currently housed at Columbus Developmental Center for the administration of a second competency evaluation. Ms. Phipps stated that she has been informed that he will return to Southwest Ohio Developmental Center (SODC) following his evaluations and will be permitted to live there indefinitely. A campaign has been started to change the law so that people who can't be successful living in the community can live indefinitely in developmental centers.

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) met this week with the leaders of Help Me Grow (HMG) and other contracted agencies. The ODH representative indicated that they will no longer tolerate a waiting list for services in Hamilton County. (Hamilton County is the only county in the state with a waiting list for EI services.) To date, 46 families have accepted the offer to switch to our agency for service coordination. The offer will remain open for up to 100 families.

A discussion ensued surrounding therapy services in Early Intervention. Bev Smith, Director of Children's Services, informed the Board that our role in therapy services in EI is consultative only. Ms. Smith indicated that there has been a staffing shortage of therapists in two regions of the county, which may have hindered some families receiving consultative therapy services. Ms. Smith indicated that there is money available for direct therapy services through ODH, but that the HMG service coordinators have not been assisting families in tapping into these funds. Ms. Smith also informed the Board that individual budgets are now being developed for some EI families, which will assist the families in obtaining the services they need.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Reported by Mr. Landers

Mr. Landers informed the Board that year to date revenues are approximately \$1.3 million over the levy plan, primarily due to the receipt of DayHab funding dollars from 2005. Mr. Landers further stated that year to date expenses are approximately \$1.2 million under plan, primarily due to our inability to make payments to contracted vendors until new contracts have been signed by those vendors.

Approval was requested for actual operating expenses of \$5,870,922.26 for the month of February 2006 with cumulative totals amounting to \$13,042,314.82 as confirmed by the Hamilton County Cash Disbursement Journal. **Mr. Hall moved that the Board approve the tentative operating expenses for the month of February 2006. Mr. Webb seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

Approval was requested for estimated operating expenses of \$7,704,458.00± for the month of March 2006, subject to final approval by the Board upon confirmation by the Hamilton County Cash Disbursement Journal. **Mr. Webb moved that the Board approve the tentative operating expenses for the month of March 2006. Mr. Miller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

Approval was requested for estimated operating expenses of \$7,704,458.00± for the month of April 2006, subject to final approval by the Board upon confirmation by the Hamilton County Cash Disbursement Journal. **Mr. Miller moved that the Board approve the tentative operating expenses for the month of April 2006. Mr. Webb seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Beth Luensman, Administrative Assistant, presented a summary of the actions of the Ethics Council to the Board. Ms. Luensman reported that the Council has received and approved three requests.

- 1) Carol Tayong, an Instructor Assistant at our satellite classroom in Amity Elementary, is requesting approval to work for Community Supports 10 hours per week providing assistance with personal care, medications, and food prep.
- 2) Cheryl Howard, Production Manager at Jackson Adult Center, is requesting approval to work for Resident Home Corporation providing foster family services.
- 3) Nita Embry, Secretary at our Southeast Region, is requesting approval to work for AWS 15-20 hours per week assisting residents with personal hygiene and food preparation.

Mr. Webb moved for Board ratification of the actions of the Ethics Council as presented. Mr. Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

HEARING THE PUBLIC

None

BOARD IN-SERVICE

Jenny Dexter, Director of Community Relations, and Kate Hawkins, Community and Government Liaison, updated the Board on the recent accomplishments of the Community Relations Department.

ADJOURNMENT

Finding no further business, Mrs. Goering declared the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Shelley Goering
President

Mrs. Lynn Sundermann
Secretary